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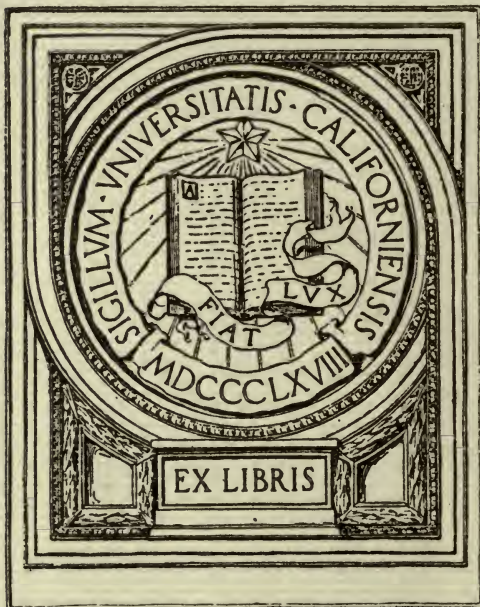
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OPNIΘΩΝ ΕΚΛΟΓΑΙ

SCENES

FROM THE

BIRDS OF ARISTOPHANES

THE TRANSLATION

BY

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BERKELEY

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1903

THE MASKS.

PISTHETAERUS

IRIS

POSEIDON

EUELPIDES

PROMETHEUS

HERACLES

MESSENGERS

TRIBALLUS

CHORUS OF BIRDS

THE ARGUMENT.

Two Athenians, PISTHETAERUS (Chickwin) and EUCLIPIDES (Hopegood), tired of the humdrum life in their native city, choose to migrate and cast in their lot with the birds. By the eloquence of Chickwin the birds have been persuaded to build a city in the air, declare themselves independent of both gods and men, and assert their ancient prerogative of the sovereignty of the universe. While the two men are occupied in the inner sanctuary, whither they have withdrawn to be *fledged*, the bird-chorus, in the "Parabasis," present their manifesto to the public.

PARABASIS.

(Translated by ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE.)

Come on then ye dwellers by nature in darkness, and like to the
leaves' generations,
That are little of might, that are moulded of mire, unenduring and
shadow-like nations,
Poor plumeless ephemerals, comfortless mortals, as visions of shadows
fast fleeing,
Lift up your mind unto us that are deathless, and dateless the date of
our being:

Us, children of heaven, ageless for aye, us, all of whose thoughts are
eternal;
That ye may from henceforth, having heard of us all things aright as
to matters supernal,
Of the being of birds, and beginning of gods, and of streams, and the
dark beyond reaching,
Truthfully knowing aright, in my name bid Prodicus pack with his
preaching.
It was Chaos and Night at the first, and the blackness of darkness,
and Hell's broad border,
Earth was not, nor air, neither heaven; when in depths of the womb
of the dark without order
First thing first-born of the black-plumed night was a wind-egg
hatched in her bosom,
Whence timely with seasons revolving again sweet Love burst out as
a blossom,
Gold wings gleaming forth of his back, like whirlwinds gustily turning.
He, after his wedlock with Chaos, whose wings are of darkness, in
Hell broad-burning,
For his nestlings begat him the race of us first, and upraised us to
light new-lighted,
And before this was not the race of the gods, until all things by Love
were united:
And of kind united with kind in communion of nature the sky and
the sea are
Brought forth, and the earth and the race of the gods everlasting and
blest. So that we are
Far away the most ancient of all things blest. And that we are of
Love's generation
There are manifold manifold signs. We have wings, and with us
have the Loves habitation;
And manifold fair young folk that foreswore love once, ere the bloom
of them ended,

Have the men that pursued and desired them subdued, by the help of
 us only befriended,
 With such baits as a quail, a flamingo, a goose, or a cock's comb
 staring and splendid.
 All best good things that befall men come from us birds, as is plain
 to all reason;
 For first we proclaim and make known to them spring, and the winter
 and autumn in season:
 Bid sow, when the crane starts clanging for Afric, in shrill-voiced
 emigrant number,
 And calls to the pilot to hang up his rudder again for the season, and
 slumber;
 And then weave cloak for Orestes the thief, lest he strip men of theirs
 if it freezes.
 And again thereafter the kite reappearing announces a change in the
 breezes,
 And that here is the season for shearing your sheep of their spring
 wool. Then does the swallow
 Give you notice to sell your greatcoat, and provide something light
 for the heat that's to follow.
 Thus are we as Ammon or Delphi unto you, Dodona, nay, Phœbus
 Apollo.
 For, as first ye come all to get auguries of birds, even such is in all
 things your carriage,
 Be the matter a matter of trade or of earning your bread, or of any
 one's marriage.
 And all things we lay to the charge of a bird that belongs to discerning
 prediction:
 Winged fame is a bird, as you reckon; you sneeze, and the sign 's as
 a bird for conviction:
 All tokens are 'birds' with you — sounds too, and lackeys, and
 donkeys. Then must it not follow
 That we ARE to you all as the manifest godhead that speaks in
 prophetic Apollo?

In the following scenes and songs, from the latter part of the comedy of the Birds, Aristophanes, while holding constantly to the fanciful dramatic illusion of a winged community and a city in the air, has introduced, after his usual manner, a great many witty allusions of a local and personal character, besides reminiscences and travesties of the famous literature of his time. Such passages cannot, of course, impress the modern reader as forcibly as they must have impressed the contemporaries of the poet in the Dionysiac theatre at Athens; still less can their effect be adequately conveyed by means of a translation into a modern tongue.

IRIS, personification of the rainbow, messenger of the gods of Heaven, is a familiar figure to readers of the Iliad of Homer. We can well understand the surprise and indignation manifested by the goddess, when in Scene IV. she is intercepted on her flight down to Earth, informed that she is guilty of trespass, and called upon to show her passport.

PROMETHEUS, a god of the fallen dynasty of the Titans, sentenced by Zeus, for stealing fire and bestowing it as a gift upon mortals, to be chained to a cliff of Mt. Caucasus and preyed upon eternally by a ravenous vulture, is known to readers of Aeschylus as a type of lofty courage, sublime endurance, and a proudly defiant spirit. As he appears in Scene V. Prometheus has clearly deteriorated in respect to some of the nobler qualities of the soul, while his hatred for the gods of the Zeus administration, and his love for men — and birds, remain undiminished.

POSEIDON, god of the sea, and HERACLES, the mighty hero and demi-god, introduced in Scene VI. as ambassadors of Zeus to the birds, are typical, in the comic representation, the former of the elegant Athenian aristocracy, the latter of a class that would include the professional athlete and the sporting man.—*Triballus*, the third member of the divine commission, supposed to represent a hitherto unknown race of foreign gods, is a pure invention of Aristophanes; the name being taken from the Triballoi, a semi-barbarous people inhabiting lands near the Danube, the district of the modern Servia and Bulgaria.

Birds of the air enjoy superior opportunities of sight-seeing. During the brief intervals following Scenes IV. and V. the bird-chorus descant upon wonders seen by them in unheard-of lands. But the lands and the wonders are familiar places and persons, comically transformed.—*Cleonymus*, a sycophant, a poltroon and coward withal, who had thrown away his shield in battle, is celebrated as an exotic of marvellous characteristics.—*Orestes*, a famous footpad, nicknamed after the heroic son of Agamemnon, haunts a locality where street lamps are as far apart as trees in the Desert of Sahara. Be it remembered that what the ancient highwayman demanded of his victims was their *clothing* rather than their money.—*Socrates*, the seedy, the soul-compelling sage, is found in charge of *lost* souls, of which, apparently, his cadaverous friend and disciple *Chaerephon* is one. To their comic Lake Avernus comes *Peisander*, demagogue and shiftY politician, aiming to recover, after the Homeric method, his *own* soul, while yet in life; as in the Odyssey of Homer Odysseus is enabled to communicate with the inmates of the Underworld by means of a blood-offering which attracts them from their shadowy abodes.—The Sycophants, or common informers, who subsisted largely by intimidating well-to-do and quiet-loving citizens with trumped-up charges and suits at law, were an especial object of the comic poets' scorn and satire. The names *Gorgias* and *Philippus* occur as representative of this class, and against them, as often at the expense of other butts of comedy, the insinuation of foreign extraction, or spurious claim to citizenship, is thrown out.

Very frequent likewise in the comedies of Aristophanes are brief witty allusions to notorious individuals in the course of the dialogue: such as the mention of the boasters Theogenes, Aeschines, and Proxenides; Cleisthenes, the effeminate; Laespodias, who, to conceal some natural defect of person, wore his mantle in a peculiar manner; and Execestides, a foreigner who had stolen an aristocratic name and by some fraud attained to Athenian citizenship. The poet would instruct his actors to ascertain where the victims of these sudden sallies were seated among the spectators in the theatre, that the opportunity might not be missed of pointing significantly at each person at the proper moment in the performance of the play.

The Old Comedy of Athens made extensive use of parody as an instrument of wit and satire: sometimes quoting and humorously perverting familiar passages of the national epic, lyric, and dramatic poetry; at other times imitating, with more or less of exaggeration, the manner of serious verse, especially the style and tone of tragedy. Illustrations of tragic parody are afforded by the warnings of Iris and the response thereto, near the end of Scene IV., also by the words of the messenger at the beginning of Scene VII.

The Grand Finale of the Birds may serve to remind us that Aristophanes, while by pre-eminence a comic poet, was likewise an acknowledged master of the lyrical art, pure and simple. Many of his songs, quite free from any admixture of the grotesque or humorous element, are charming creations of bright fancy and airy grace, couched in language of surpassing melody and sweetness. In this regard he has been justly compared to our own Shakspeare,

"Fancy's child,
"Warbling his native woodnotes wild."

Α.

Πι. ταυτὶ τοιαντί· μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν πράγμα πω
γελοιότερον οὐκ εἶδον οὐδεπώποτε.

Ευ. ἐπὶ τῷ γελᾷς;

Πι. ἐπὶ τοῖσι σοῖς ὠκυπτέροις.
οἶσθ' ὃ μάλιστ' ἔοικας ἐπτερωμένος;
εἰς εὐτέλειαν χηνὶ συγγεγραμμένῳ.

Ευ. σὺ δὲ κοψίχῳ γε σκάφιον ἀποτετιλμένῳ.

Πι. ταυτὶ μὲν ἡκάσμεσθα κατὰ τὸν Αἰσχύλον·
“τάδ' οὐχ ὑπ' ἄλλων ἀλλὰ τοῖς αὐτῶν πτεροῖς.”

Χο. ἄγε δὴ τί χρὴ δρᾶν;

Πι. πρῶτον ὄνομα τῇ πόλει
θέσθαι τι μέγα καὶ κλεινόν, εἴτα τοῖς θεοῖς
θῦσαι μετὰ τοῦτο.

Ευ. ταῦτα κάμοι συνδοκεῖ.

Χο. φέρ' ἴδω, τί δ' ἡμῖν τοῦνομ' ἔσται τῇ πόλει;

Ευ. βούλεσθε τὸ μέγα τοῦτο τοῦκ Λακεδαίμονος
Σπάρτην ὄνομα καλῶμεν αὐτήν;

SCENE I.

Enter PISTHETAERUS and EUELPIDES, fledged.

Pisth. So far, so good! I swear I never saw
A funnier exhibition in my life!

Eu. Why, what do you see to laugh at?

Pisth. Your pinfeathers.

Do you know what you look like, fitted out with wings?—
The counterfeit presentment of a goose.

Eu. And you like a blackbird! You must have worn a bowl
When last the barbers trimm'd your sorry poll.

Pisth. [*To the spectators.*] Our model for these gibes is Aeschylus:
"Lo, mine own feathers wing'd the fatal shaft!"

LEADER OF CHORUS.

Chor. Hey, now! What's to be done?

Pisth. First give the city

A great and famous name. Then, offer sacrifice
To the new gods.

Eu. My sentiments exactly!

Chor. But come, say, what name shall our city have?

Eu. Will you take that mighty one from Lacedaemon,
And name it Sparta?

Πι.

Ἡράκλεις·

Σπάρτην γὰρ ἂν θείμην ἐγὼ τῇμῃ πόλει ;
οὐδ' ἂν χαμεύνη πάνυ γε κειρίαν γ' ἔχων.

Ευ. τί δῆτ' ὄνομ' αὐτῇ θησόμεσθ' ;

Χο.

ἐντευθενὶ

ἐκ τῶν νεφελῶν καὶ τῶν μετεώρων χωρίων
χαυνόν τι πάνυ.

Πι.

βούλει Νεφελοκοκκυγίαν ;

Χο. ἰὸν ἰού·

καλόν γ' ἀτεχνῶς σὺ καὶ μέγ' ἦῤρες τοῦνομα.

Ευ. ἄρ' ἐστὶν αὐτῇγί Νεφελοκοκκυγία,
ἵνα καὶ τὰ Θεογένους τὰ πολλὰ χρήματα
τά τ' Αἰσχίνου γ' ἅπαντα ;

Πι.

καὶ λῶστον μὲν οὖν

τὸ Φλέγρας πεδῖον, ἵν' οἱ θεοὶ τοὺς γηγενεῖς
ἀλαζονευόμενοι καθυπερηκόντισαν.

Χο. λιπαρὸν τὸ χρήμα τῆς πόλεως. τίς δαὶ θεὸς
πολιοῦχος ἔσται ; τῷ ξανοῦμεν τὸν πέπλον ;

Ευ. τί δ' οὐκ Ἀθηναίαν ἐῷμεν Πολιάδα ;

Πι.

καὶ πῶς ἂν ἔτι γένοιτ' ἂν εὐτακτος πόλις,
ὅπου θεὸς γυνὴ γεγονυῖα πανοπλίαν
ἔστηκ' ἔχουσα, Κλεισθένης δὲ κερκίδα ;

Ευ. τίς δαὶ καθέξει τῆς πόλεως τὸ Πελαργικόν ;

Χο. ὄρνις ἀφ' ἡμῶν τοῦ γένους τοῦ Περσικοῦ,
ὅσπερ λέγεται δεινότατος εἶναι πανταχοῦ
Ἄρεως νεοττός.

Pisth. Heracles, not I!
 Think you I'd put up with sparring in *my* city?
 I'd sooner take a ship's spar to a bedstead!

Eu. What shall we call it, then?

Chor. Something from right here,
 From the clouds and the upper regions of the air.
 Something right puffy.

Pisth. How about *Cloudcuckootown*?

Chor. Hurrah, hurrah!
 You have found a great big downright splendid name!

Eu. Is it the Cloudcuckootown where those braggarts,
 Theogenes and Aeschines, maintain
 Their vast estates?

Pisth. Or, better still, the place
 Known as the plain of Phlegra, where the gods beat
 The earth-born giants in a boasting-match!

Chor. A slick thing of a city! What god, pray,
 Shall guard it, and take our offering of the robe?

Eu. Well, why not let Athena still be guardian?

Pisth. Indeed, is such a thing conceivable?—
 An orderly community, where a woman
 Stands in full armor as the guardian god,
 And leaves the shuttle to Sissy Cleisthenes!

Eu. Who is to take the wall in charge?

Chor. A bird of Persian breed we have among us,
 A fighter, deem'd the doughtiest in the world
 Of Ares' chickens.

Ευ. ὦ νεοττὲ δέσποτα·
ὥς δ' ὁ θεὸς ἐπιτήδειος οἰκεῖν ἐπὶ πετρῶν.

Πι. ἄγε νυν σὺ μὲν βάδιζε πρὸς τὸν ἀέρα
καὶ τοῖσι τειχίζουσι παραδιακόνει,
χάλικας παραφόρει, πηλὸν ἀποδὺς ὄργασον,
λεκάνην ἀνένεγκε, κατάρπες ἀπὸ τῆς κλίμακος,
φύλακας κατάρπης, τὸ πῦρ ἔγκρυπτ' αἰεί,
κωδωνοφορῶν περίτρεχε καὶ κάθεινδ' ἐκεῖ·
κῆρυκα δὲ πέμψον τὸν μὲν εἰς θεοὺς ἄνω,
ἕτερον δ' ἄνωθεν αὖ παρ' ἀνθρώπους κάτω,
κάκειθεν αὖθις παρ' ἐμέ.

Ευ. σὺ δέ γ' αὐτοῦ μένων
οἴμωζε παρ' ἐμ'.

Πι. ἴθ' ὦγάθ' οἱ πέμπω σ' ἐγώ.
οὐδὲν γὰρ ἄνευ σοῦ τῶνδ' ἂν λέγω πεπραῖξεται.
ἐγὼ δὲ θύσω τοῖσι καινοῖσιν θεοῖς.

Eu. My Lord Chick, all-hail!

A deity well pick'd to roost on rocks.

Pisth. [To EUCLIPIDES.] Here you, be off! March into the air, and
stand

Ready to help the builders of the wall.

Keep them in rubble; strip, and wet the mortar;

Up with the hod; down tumble from the ladder;

Set the night watches; be sure and bank the fires;

Run round bell-ringing; lie down and go to sleep there!

Send off two heralds: one to the gods above,

Another down to mortal men on earth;

Then back and report to me.

Eu. And you stay here

And be hang'd!—to me.

Pisth. Go straight, sir, where I send you.

Nothing whereof I speak will be done without you.—

For my part, I'll go forth, and at the altars

Of these new gods will offer sacrifice.

B.

Πι. τὰ μὲν ἱέρ' ἡμῖν ἐστιν ὄρνιθες καλὰ·
ἀλλ' ὥς ἀπὸ τοῦ τείχους πάρεστιν ἄγγελος
οὐδεὶς, ὅτου πευσόμεθα τὰκεῖ πράγματα.
ἀλλ' οὐτοσὶ τρέχει τις Ἀλφειὸν πνέων.

Ἀγ. ποῦ ποῦ 'στι, ποῦ ποῦ ποῦ 'στι, ποῦ ποῦ ποῦ 'στι,
ποῦ,
ποῦ Πισθέταιρός ἐστιν ἄρχων;

Πι. οὐτοσί.

Ἀγ. ἐξωκοδόμηταί σοι τὸ τεῖχος.

Πι. εὖ λέγεις.

Ἀγ. κάλλιστον ἔργον καὶ μεγαλοπρεπέστατον
ὥστ' ἂν ἐπάνω μὲν Προξενίδης ὁ Κομπασιεὺς
καὶ Θεογένης ἐναντίω δὺ ἄρματε,
ἵππων ὑπόντων μέγεθος ὅσον ὁ δούριος,
ὑπὸ τοῦ πλάτους ἂν παρελασάιτην.

Πι. Ἡράκλεις.

Ἀγ. τὸ δὲ μῆκός ἐστι, καὶ γὰρ ἐμέτρησ' αὐτ' ἐγώ,
ἐκατοντορόγιον.

SCENE II.

Enter PISTHETAERUS.

Pisth. Our sacrifices prosper, fellow birds;
But as for tidings from the wall, how comes it
No messenger is yet on hand to post us?
Ah, here's a runner, puffing Olympic records!

Enter a Messenger, panting.

Mess. Where—where—where is he?—where—where is he? where—
Where's Chickwin, the bird manager?— where?

Pisth. Right here.

Mess. Your wall's all built and finish'd.

Pisth. Bravo! Well done!

Mess. A most magnificent affair! On top
It's wide enough for Proxenus of Bragtown,
And Theogenes, to drive past one another
In chariots drawn by horses of the size
Of the wooden horse of Troy.

Pisth. Lord Heracles!

Mess. And the height (I measured it myself) counts up
Six-hundred feet!

Πι. ὦ Πόσειδον τοῦ μάκρους.

τίνες ὤκοδόμησαν αὐτὸ τηλικουτονί;

Ἄγ. ὄρνιθες, οὐδεὶς ἄλλος, οὐκ Αἰγύπτιος
πλινθοφόρος, οὐ λιθουργός, οὐ τέκτων παρῆν,
ἀλλ' αὐτόχειρες, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ.

ἐκ μέν γε Λιβύης ἦκον ὡς τρισμύριαι
γέρανοι θεμελίους καταπεπωκύναι λίθους.
τούτους δ' ἐτύκιζον αἱ κρέκες τοῖς ῥύγχεσιν.

ἕτεροι δ' ἐπλινθοφόρουν πελαργοὶ μύριοι·
ὔδωρ δ' ἐφόρουν κάτωθεν ἐς τὸν ἀέρα
οἱ χαραδριοὶ καὶ τᾶλλα ποτάμι' ὄρνεα.

Πι. ἐπηλοφόρουν δ' αὐτοῖσι τίνες;

Ἄγ. ἐρωδιοὶ
λεκάναισι.

Πι. τὸν δὲ πηλὸν ἐνεβάλλοντο πῶς;

Ἄγ. τοῦτ' ὤγάθ' ἐξηύρητο καὶ σοφώτατα·
οἱ χῆνες ὑποτύπτουντες ὥσπερ ταῖς ἅμαις
ἐς τὰς λεκάνας ἐνέβαλλον αὐτοῖς τοῖν ποδοῖν.

Πι. τί δῆτα πόδες ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἐργασαίητο;

Ἄγ. καὶ νῆ Δί' αἱ νῆτταί γε περιεζωσμένα
ἐπλινθοφόρουν· ἄνω δὲ τὸν ὑπαγωγέα
ἐπέτοντ' ἔχουσαι κατόπιν ὥσπερ παιδία
τὸν πηλὸν ἐν τοῖς στόμασιν αἱ χελιδόνες.

Πι. τί δῆτα μισθωτοὺς ἂν ἔτι μισθοῖτό τις;
φέρ' ἴδω, τί δαί; τὰ ξύλινα τοῦ τείχους τίνες
ἀπειργάσαντ' ;

Pisth. Poseidon, what a height!

Who built the wall so big?

Mess. Birds, and birds only!

No bricklayer from Egypt, no stonecutter, no joiner!

Birds, with their own hands, an amazing thing!

From Libya there came cranes, some thirty-thousand,

Each with a paving-stone inside her belly,

That she had swallow'd for ballast. These stones the rails

Hew'd with their bills to the right shape for building.

Another stork contingent of ten-thousand

Made brick, with bitterns and other aquatic birds

To carry the water up into the air.

Pisth. Who brought the clay up for them?

Mess. Pelicans,

In their pouches.

Pisth. How was it shovel'd in?

Mess. That, sir,

Was most ingeniously devis'd: the geese

Got down, and, digging under in spade fashion,

They fill'd the pouches by shoveling with their feet.

Pisth. Well, after that, what feat can seem surprising?

Mess. The ducks, moreover, tied aprons round their necks

And carried the brick. Tomtits came flying behind

With the trowels; while the mortar for it all

Was fetch'd by swallows, a mouthful at a time.

Pisth. Dear me, what use are hired men any longer?—

Let's see, what next? Who finish'd the timber work

For the fortress?

Ἄγ. ὄρνιθες ἦσαν τέκτονες
σοφώτατοι πελεκᾶντες, οἳ τοῖς ῥύγχεσιν
ἀπεπελέκησαν τὰς πύλας· ἦν δ' ὁ κτύπος
αὐτῶν πελεκώντων ὥσπερ ἐν ναυπηγίῳ.
καὶ νῦν ἅπαντ' ἐκεῖνα πεπύλωται πύλαις
καὶ βεβαλάνωται καὶ φυλάττεται κύκλῳ,
ἐφοδεύεται, κωδωνοφορεῖται, πανταχῇ
φυλακαὶ καθεστήκασι καὶ φρυκτωρίαί
ἐν τοῖσι πύργοις. ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μὲν ἀποτρέχων
ἀπονίψομαι· σὺ δ' αὐτὸς ἤδη τᾶλλα δρᾷ.

Χο. οὗτος τί ποιεῖς; ἄρα θαυμάζεις ὅτι
οὕτω τὸ τεῖχος ἐκτετείχισται ταχύ;

Πι. νῆ τοὺς θεοὺς ἔγωγε· καὶ γὰρ ἄξιον
ἴσα γὰρ ἀληθῶς φαίνεται μοι ψεύδεσιν.
ἀλλ' ὅδε φύλαξ γὰρ τῶν ἐκείθεν ἄγγελος
ἐσθεὶ πρὸς ἡμᾶς δεῦρο πυρρίχην βλέπων.

Mess. Bird carpenters, a clever lot
Of woodpeckers, using their beaks to hew
The gates and shape them. You might hear a din
As in a shipyard, while they peek'd away.
And now the gate-making up there is all finish'd.
All's barr'd and bolted and guarded round about;
Patrols and bell-ringers all on hand; night watches
Station'd, and fire-signals kindled in the towers.—
But I'll run out and get a wash. What still
Remains to be done, attend to that yourself.

LEADER OF CHORUS.

Chor. [*To PISTHETÆRUS.*] Ho, what's the matter there? Are you
lost in wonder,
That the fortification was foisted up so quickly?
Pisth. Ay, that I am! It's worthy of wonder. It seems
In very truth just like a mass of fiction.—
But here comes one of the guards with tidings for us,
Running in with blood and thunder in his eye!

Γ.

Ἄγ. ἰοὺ ἰοῦ, ἰοὺ ἰοῦ, ἰοὺ ἰοῦ.

Πι. τί τὸ πρᾶγμα τουτί;

Ἄγ. δεινότατα πεπόνθαμεν.

τῶν γὰρ θεῶν τις ἄρτι τῶν παρὰ τοῦ Διὸς
διὰ τῶν πυλῶν εἰσέπτet' ἐς τὸν ἀέρα,
λαθὼν κολοιοὺς φύλακας ἡμεροσκόπους.

Πι. ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον καὶ σχέτλιον εἰργασμένος.
τίς τῶν θεῶν;

Ἄγ. οὐκ ἴσμεν· ὅτι δ' εἶχε πτερά,
τοῦτ' ἴσμεν.

Πι. οὐκ οὖν δῆτα περιπόλους ἐχρῆν
πέμψαι κατ' αὐτὸν εὐθύς;

Ἄγ. ἀλλ' ἐπέμψαμεν
τρισμυρίους ἰέρακας ἵπποτοξότας,
χωρεῖ δὲ πᾶς τις ὄνυχας ἡγκυλωμένος,
κερχνῆς τριόρχης γύνψ κύμινδιν αἰετός·
ρύμη τε καὶ πτεροῖσι καὶ ῥοιζήμασιν
αἰθὴρ δονεῖται τοῦ θεοῦ ζητουμένου·
κάστ' οὐ μακρὰν ἄπωθεν, ἀλλ' ἐνταῦθά που
ἤδη 'στίν.

Πι. οὐκ οὖν σφενδόνας δεῖ λαμβάνειν
καὶ τόξα; χώρει δεῦρο πᾶς ὑπηρέτης·
τόξευε παῖε, σφενδόνην τίς μοι δότω.

SCENE III.

Enter a Messenger, running.

Mess. Murder! Oho! stop thief! Oho, oho!

Pisth. What's all this pothor?

Mess. A shame, a perfect outrage!

Some one of the late gods, one of the Zeus persuasion,
Has flown in thro' the gates, into our air,
Dodging the jackdaw pickets and the scouts.

Pisth. O damnable offence! The infamous sinner!
Which one of the gods?

Mess. We don't know. That it had wings,
We know that only.

Pisth. You should have sent, straightway,
Rangers, to run him down.

Mess. We did send off
Mounted jayhawkers, thirty-thousand strong.
Just everything with crook'd claws is abroad,
Kite, vulture, eagle, every mother's son.
The swirling, swishing of their pinions makes
The welkin shiver, a-searching out that god.
And it's not far off; it must be, even now,
Somewhere close by!

Pisth. Ho, slings here! Take your bows
And arrows! Every private report for duty!
Shoot, shoot! Let fly! Hey, pass me up a sling!

Δ.

Πι. αὕτη σύ, ποῖ ποῖ ποῖ πέτει; μέν' ἤσυχος,
ἔχ' ἀτρέμας· αὐτοῦ στῆθ'· ἐπίσχει τοῦ δρόμου.
τίς εἶ; ποδαπή; λέγειν ἐχρῆν ὀπόθεν πότ' εἶ.

Ιρ. παρὰ τῶν θεῶν ἔγωγε τῶν Ὀλυμπίων.

Πι. ὄνομα δέ σοι τί ἐστι; πλοῖον ἢ κυνῇ;

Ιρ. Ἴρις ταχεία.

Πι. Πάραλος ἢ Σαλαμινία;

Ιρ. τί δὲ τοῦτο;

Πι. ταυτηνὶ τις οὐ συλλήφεται
ἀναπτόμενος τρίορχος;

Ιρ. ἐμὲ συλλήφεται;

τί ποτ' ἐστὶ τουτὶ τὸ κακόν;

Πι. οἰμώξει μακρά.

Ιρ. ἄτοπόν γε τουτὶ πρᾶγμα.

Πι. κατὰ ποίας πύλας
εἰσῆλθες ἐς τὸ τείχος ὧ μιαιωνάτῃ;

Ιρ. οὐκ οἶδα μὰ Δί' ἔγωγε κατὰ ποίας πύλας.

Πι. ἤκουσας αὐτῆς οἶον εἰρωνεύεται;
πρὸς τοὺς κολοιάρχας προσῆλθες; οὐ λέγεις;
σφραγίδ' ἔχεις παρὰ τῶν πελαργῶν;

Ιρ. τί τὸ κακόν.

SCENE IV.

Enter IRIS, flying.

Pisth. Ho, you she! Where, where, where're you flying? Hold still;
Keep quiet; stand there; let up on that run, I say!

What ship is that? Heave to, and tell where you hail from!

Iris. From the gods am I, the great gods of Olympus.

Pisth. What name do you sport? Are you sailboat or sun-bonnet?

Iris. Iris, the speedy.

Pisth. Reliance, or Defender?

Iris. What does this mean?

Pisth. Won't some cockatoo fly up
And take this woman in tow?

Iris. Take me in tow?

What insolence is this?

Pisth. O, you will catch it!

Iris. How perfectly ridiculous!

Pisth. By what gate
Did you come into the city, you dirty creature?

Iris. Upon my word I don't know by what gate!

Pisth. Do you hear her, now?—pretending she doesn't know!—
Have you call'd at the kingbird's office?—Can't you speak?—
Got a pass from the peacocks?

Iris. Mercy! what means this outrage?

Πι. οὐκ ἔλαβες;

Ιρ. ὑγιαίνεις μέν;

Πι. οὐδὲ σύμβολον

ἐπέβαλεν ὀρνίθαρχος οὐδεὶς σοι παρών;

Ιρ. μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔμοιγ' ἐπέβαλεν οὐδεὶς ὦ μέλε.

Πι. κάπειτα δῆθ' οὕτω σιωπῇ διαπέτει

διὰ τῆς πόλεως τῆς ἀλλοτρίας καὶ τοῦ χάους;

Ιρ. ποίᾳ γὰρ ἄλλῃ χρὴ πέτεσθαι τοὺς θεοὺς;

Πι. οὐκ οἶδα μὰ Δί' ἔγωγε· τῇδε μὲν γὰρ οὐ.

ἀδικεῖς δὲ καὶ νῦν. ἄρά γ' οἶσθα τοῦθ' ὅτι

δικαιοῦνται ἂν ληφθεῖσα πασῶν Ἰρίδων

ἀπέθανες, εἰ τῆς ἀξίας ἐτύγχανες;

Ιρ. ἀλλ' ἀθάνατός εἰμ'.

Πι. ἀλλ' ὅμως ἂν ἀπέθανες.

δεινότατα γάρ τοι πεισόμεσθ', ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ,

εἰ τῶν μὲν ἄλλων ἄρχομεν, ὑμεῖς δ' οἱ θεοὶ

ἀκολαстанεῖτε, κούδέπω γνώσεσθ' ὅτι

ἀκροατέον ὑμῖν ἐν μέρει τῶν κρειττόνων.

φράσον δέ τοί μοι τὸ πτέρυγε ποῖ ναυστολεῖς;

Ιρ. ἐγώ; πρὸς ἀνθρώπους πέτομαι παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς

φράσουσα θύειν τοῖς Ὀλυμπίοις θεοῖς

μηλοσφαγεῖν τε βουθύτοις ἐπ' ἐσχάrais

κνισᾶν τ' ἀγνιάς.

Πι. τί σὺ λέγεις; ποίοις θεοῖς;

Ιρ. ποίοισιν; ἡμῖν τοῖς ἐν οὐρανῷ θεοῖς.

Πι. θεοὶ γὰρ ὑμεῖς;

Pisth. Haven't you got one?

Iris. Are you in your senses?

Pisth. Haven't you been

With a buzzard boss and had yourself stamp'd properly?

Iris. Sir, nobody has stamp'd *me*, I'd have you know!

Pisth. So then, do you thus go flying, without a word,
Thro' foreign territory and this air-space of ours?

Iris. Why, what other way, pray, are the gods to fly?

Pisth. Upon my word I don't know — only not this way.
You're a trespasser already. Do you know what you,
Of all the Irises, deserve most richly?
By rights, you'd be arrested and die the death.

Iris. But I am immortal!

Pisth. You'd mortify all the same!—

This is just outrageous treatment, it seems to me,
If we're to rule all other people, but you gods
Are going to run riot, and never will remember
That your turn has come to hearken to your betters.—
But let's know, whither you're steering those two wings?

Iris. Whither? I fly to mortals, from my father,
To bid them sacrifice to the Olympian gods,
Staining sheep-altars with the blood of kine,
Making the highways fragrant.

Pisth. Ah, to what gods?

Iris. What gods? Indeed, ourselves, the gods of Heaven!

Pisth. So, are *you* gods?

Ιρ. τίς γάρ ἐστ' ἄλλος θεός ;

Πι. ὄρνιθες ἀνθρώποισι νῦν εἰσιν θεοί,
οἷς θυτέον αὐτούς, ἀλλὰ μὰ Δί' οὐ τῷ Δί.

Ιρ. ὦ μῶρε μῶρε μὴ θεῶν κίνει φρένας
δεινὰς, ὅπως μὴ σου γένος πανώλεθρον
Διὸς μακέλλη πᾶν ἀναστρέψῃ Δίκη,
λιγνὺς δὲ σῶμα καὶ δόμων περιπτυχὰς
καταιθαλώσῃ σου Λικυμνίαις βολαῖς.

Πι. ἄκουσον αὐτῇ· παῦε τῶν παφλασμάτων
ἔχ' ἀτρέμα. φέρ' ἴδω, πότερα Λυδὸν ἢ Φρύγα
ταυτὶ λέγουσα μορμολύττεσθαι δοκεῖς ;
ἄρ' οἶσθ' ὅτι Ζεὺς εἴ με λυπήσῃ πέρα,
μελαθρα μὲν αὐτοῦ καὶ δόμους Ἀμφίονος
καταιθαλώσω πυρφόροισιν αἰετοῖς ;
πέμψω δὲ πορφυρίωνας ἐς τὸν οὐρανὸν
ὄρνις ἐπ' αὐτὸν παρδαλᾶς ἐνημμένους
πλεῖν ἐξακοσίους τὸν ἀριθμόν. καὶ δὴ ποτε
εἰς Πορφυρίων αὐτῷ παρέσχε πράγματα.
σὺ δ' εἴ με λυπήσεις, διαλήψομαι
τὴν Ἱριν αὐτήν, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ.

Ιρ. διαρραγείης ὦ μέλ' αὐτοῖς ῥήμασιν.

Πι. οὐκ ἀποσοβήσεις ; οὐ ταχέως ; εὐράξ πατάξ.

Ιρ. ἢ μὴν σε παύσει τῆς ὕβρεως οὐμὸς πατήρ.

Πι. οὔμοι τάλας. οὐκουν ἐτέρωσε πετομένη
καταιθαλώσεις τῶν νεωτέρων τινά ;

Iris.

Why, what god is there else?

Pisth. Birds, at the present time, are gods for men;
To birds they must sacrifice, not — by Zeus! — to Zeus!

Iris. O fool, fool, move not thou celestial minds
To wrath, lest with the mattock of great Zeus
Retributive Justice fell thee, root and branch;
Black fires incinerate thy house and body,
And their integuments, with Licymnian bolts!

Pisth. Jade, harkee! Cease thy tragic splutterings; hold
Thy peace! Is it a Lydian or a Phrygian slave
Thou tak'st me for, to be bluff'd off with bugbears?
Knowest thou, if Zeus annoy me further, I
His mansions and the homestead of Amphion
With fire-compelling eagles will cremate?
I'll send after *him* a flock of butcher-birds
Into the sky, drest up in panther-skins,
Six-hundred in number. There was a time when *one*
Little butcher of a giant kept him busy.—
And for you, to begin with, if you make any trouble, I'll have
The hired girl Iris iron'd out so flat,
She'll wonder where old Ironsides heats his flatiron.

Iris. You horrid old thing, I hope your words may choke you!

Pisth. Hop off, hop off, now! — quick! Shoo, shoo! Scat, scatter!

Iris. My father, I tell you, will stop your insolence!

Pisth. O, go along; won't you fly elsewhere, and preach
Incineration to some of the younger folk?

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

(στροφή)

πολλὰ δὴ καὶ καινὰ καὶ θαυ-
μάστ' ἐπεπτόμεσθα καὶ
δεινὰ πράγματ' εἶδομεν. —
ἔστι γὰρ δένδρον πεφυκὸς
ἔκτοπόν τι Καρδίας ἀ-
πωτέρω, Κλεώνυμος·
χρήσιμον μὲν οὐδέν, ἄλ-
λως δὲ δειλὸν καὶ μέγα.

τοῦτο τοῦ μὲν ἦρος αἰὶ
βλαστάνει καὶ συκοφαντεῖ,
τοῦ δὲ χειμῶνος πάλιν τὰς
ἀσπίδας φυλλορροεῖ.

(ἀντιστροφή)

ἔστι δ' αὖ χώρα πρὸς αὐτῷ
τῷ σκότῳ πόρρω τις ἐν
τῇ λύχνων ἐρημία,
ἐνθα τοῖς ἥρωσιν ἀνθρω-
ποι ξυναριστῶσι καὶ ξύν-
εισι πλὴν τῆς ἐσπέρας.
τηνικαῦτα δ' οὐκέτ' ἦν
ἀσφαλὲς ξυντυγχάνειν.

εἰ γὰρ ἐντύχοι τις ἥρῳ
τῶν βροτῶν νύκτωρ Ὀρέστη,
γυμνὸς ἦν πληγείς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ
πάντα τὰπιδέξια.

CHORUS.

(*strophe*)

We, in our far flighty travels,
Strange and awful curios
Have alighted on and noted.—
There's a foreign tree, which grows

Well beyond Cape *Cœur de Lion*:
It is call'd Cleonymus;
Good for nothing, yet extremely
Tall and pusillanimous.

In the spring it buds and blabs and
Exhales libel thro' the fields;
Then, when the inclement season
Comes again, it sheds its shields.

(*antistrophe*)

There's a far country, that borders
Close on Darkest Dagoland,
In the wilderness of lamp-posts,
Dreary gleams and bags of sand.

There, with demi-gods and heroes
Mortals breakfast, chat, and pour
Wine — save only in the evening;
Then the fun is safe no more.

For suppose you met Orestes,
That great hero, after dark:
His tall form would wear your garments,
Your five ribs would bear his mark.

Ε.

Πρ. οἴ μοι τάλας, ὁ Ζεὺς ὅπως μὴ μ' ὄψεται.
ποῦ Πισθέταιρός ἐστ' ;

Πι. ἔα τουτὶ τί ἦν ;
τίς ὁ συγκαλυμμός ;

Πρ. τῶν θεῶν ὁρᾷς τινα
ἐμοῦ κατόπιν ἐνταῦθα ;

Πι. μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν οὔ.
τίς δ' εἶ σύ ;

Πρ. πηνίκ' ἐστὶν ἄρα τῆς ἡμέρας ;

Πι. ὀπηνίκα ; σμικρόν τι μετὰ μεσημβρίαν.
ἀλλὰ σὺ τίς εἶ ;

Πρ. βουλυτὸς ἢ περαιτέρω ;

Πι. οἶμ' ὥς βδελύττομαί σε.

Πρ. τί γὰρ ὁ Ζεὺς ποιεῖ ;
ἀπαιθριάζει τὰς νεφέλας ἢ ξυννέφει ;

Πι. οἶμωζε μεγάλη.

Πρ. οὕτω μὲν ἐκκεκαλύφτομαι.

Πι. ὦ φίλε Προμηθεῦ.

Πρ. παῦε παῦε, μὴ βόα.

SCENE V.

Enter PISTHETAERUS and PROMETHEUS, the latter hiding his head under an umbrella.

Prom. Great heavens, Zeus must not see me, for my life!
Where's Chickwin?

Pisth. Hi, what have we here? What's this
Umbrella business?

Prom. Do you see any one of the gods
Up here behind me?

Pisth. By the powers, I don't!
Who are you, anyway?

Prom. What's the time o' day?

Pisth. What's the time? A trifle past noon. But who the deuce
Are you?

Prom. Lunch time, or a little later?

Pisth. My stars,
You make me sick!

Prom. What weather is Zeus making?
Is the sky clearing off, or clouding up again?

Pisth. Go and be hang'd!

Prom. In that case I'll uncover.

Pisth. My dear Prometheus! *[Showing his face.]*

Prom. Stop, stop, don't call out!

Πι. τί γὰρ ἔστι;

Πρ. σίγα, μὴ κάλει μου τοῦνομα.
ἀπὸ γὰρ μ' ὀλεῖς, εἴ μ' ἐνθάδ' ὁ Ζεὺς ὀφεται.
ἀλλ' ἵνα φράσω σοι πάντα τᾶνω πράγματα,
τουτὶ λαβὼν μου τὸ σκιάδειον ὑπέρεχε
ἄνωθεν, ὥς ἂν μή μ' ὀρώσιν οἱ θεοί.

Πι. ἰοὺ ἰοὺ.

εὖ γ' ἐπενόησας αὐτὸ καὶ προμηθικῶς.
ὑπόδυθι ταχὺ δὴ κᾶτα θαρρήσας λέγε.

Πρ. ἄκουε δὴ νυν.

Πι. ὥς ἀκούοντος λέγε.

Πρ. ἀπόλωλεν ὁ Ζεὺς.

Πι. πηνίκ' ἄττι' ἀπώλετο;

Πρ. ἐξ οὐπερ ὑμεῖς φκίσατε τὸν ἀέρα.
θύει γὰρ οὐδεὶς οὐδὲν ἀνθρώπων ἔτι
θεοῖσιν, οὐδὲ κνῖσα μηρίων ἄπο
ἀνῆλθεν ὥς ἡμᾶς ἀπ' ἐκείνου τοῦ χρόνου,
ἀλλ' ὥσπερ εἰ Θεσμοφορίοις νηστεύομεν
ἄνευ θυηλῶν· οἱ δὲ βάρβαροι θεοὶ
πεινῶντες ὥσπερ Ἰλλυριοὶ κεκριγότες
ἐπιστρατεύσειν φάσ' ἄνωθεν τῷ Δίῃ,
εἰ μὴ παρέξει τὰμπόρι' ἀνεφγμένα,
ἵν' εἰσάγοιτο σπλάγχχνα κατατετμημένα.

Πι. εἰσὶν γὰρ ἕτεροι βάρβαροι θεοὶ τινες.
ἄνωθεν ὑμῶν;

Πρ. οὐ γάρ εἰσι βάρβαροι,

Pisth. Why, what's the matter?

Prom.

Hold still, don't call my name!

You'll be the death of me, if Zeus sees me here.

I'll tell you the whole state of affairs up there,

If you'll just take this parasol and hold it over us,

That the gods mayn't see me.

Pisth.

Dear me, but that *is*

An admirable Promethean idea!

Get under, quick now; take courage, and say on.

Prom. Now listen!

Pisth.

Listen it is; out with it, old man!

Prom. It is all over with Zeus!

Pisth.

All over—about what time?

Prom. Ever since you settled the city in the air.

No mortal more to the gods does sacrifice;

No more does savory steam of burning meats

Ascend to us, since that unhappy day.

But, as it were thro' some long Lenten tide,

We fast and famish; while the barbarian gods

Do squeak and gibber in their hunger, and swear

They will cross over from beyond and invade

The lands of Zeus, unless we throw ports open

And start free-trade in sacrificial tid-bits.

Pisth. What, are there barbarian gods, another lot,

Over beyond you?

Prom.

Why, of course there must be

ὅθεν ὁ πατρῷός ἐστιν Ἐξηκεστιδίη;

Πι. ὄνομα δὲ τούτοις τοῖς θεοῖς τοῖς βαρβάροις
τί ἔστιν;

Πρ. ὅ τι ἔστιν; Τριβαλλοί.

Πι. μανθάνω.

ἐντεῦθεν ἄρα τοῦπιτριβείης ἐγένετο;

Πρ. μάλιστα πάντων. ἐν δέ σοι λέγω σαφές·
ἤξουσι πρόσβεις δεῦρο περὶ διαλλαγῶν
παρὰ τοῦ Διὸς καὶ τῶν Τριβαλλῶν τῶν ἄνω·
ὕμεῖς δὲ μὴ σπένδεσθ', ἐὰν μὴ παραδιδῶ
τὸ σκῆπτρον ὁ Ζεὺς τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν πάλιν,
καὶ τὴν Βασίλειαν σοὶ γυναικί' ἔχειν διδῶ.

Πι. τίς ἐστιν ἡ Βασίλεια;

Πρ. καλλίστη κόρη,
ἥπερ ταμεύει τὸν κεραννὸν τοῦ Διὸς
καὶ τ'ἄλλ' ἀπαξάπαντα, τὴν εὐβουλίαν
τὴν εὐνομίαν τὴν σωφροσύνην τὰ νεώρια
τὴν λοιδορίαν τὸν κωλακρέτην τὰ τριώβολα.

Πι. ἅπαντά γ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ ταμεύει;

Πρ. φήμ' ἐγώ.
ἦν γ' ἦν σὺ παρ' ἐκείνου παραλάβῃς, πάντ' ἔχεις.
τούτων ἕνεκα δεῦρ' ἦλθον, ἵνα φράσαιμί σοι.
αἰεὶ ποτ' ἀνθρώποις γὰρ εὖνους εἴμ' ἐγώ.

Πι. μόνον θεῶν γὰρ διὰ σ' ἀπανθρακίζομεν.

Πρ. μισῶ δ' ἅπαντας τοὺς θεοὺς, ὥς οἶσθα σύ.

Πι. νῆ τὸν Δί' αἰεὶ δῆτα θεομισῆς ἔφης.

Outlandish deities, to furnish forth
The pedigree of Exceestides.

Pisth. And what's the name of these barbarian gods?

Prom. What is their name? Triballians.

Pisth.

Ah, I see:

The source from whence all tribulations flow.

Prom. To be sure. And on one thing you may count for certain:
Ambassadors will arrive here, touching a treaty,
From Zeus and from the Triballians over beyond.
But don't you grant a truce, save on condition
That Zeus restore the sceptre to the birds
And give *you* Princess Basily to wife.

Pisth. Who is Basily?

Prom. A beautiful fair maid,
Who holds the key to the cupboard where Zeus stores
His thunderbolt and all his bric-a-brac;
His wisdom, law and order, virtuous
Intentions, ship-supplies, vituperation,
Paymasters' cheques, and cash to bribe the jury.

Pisth. She holds the key to everything, then?

Prom.

Just so!

Get *her* from him, you've got the whole. I came
Expressly to advise you of this matter:—
As ever, a benefactor of mankind.

Pisth. For broiling fish our *sole* divinity!

Prom. And, as you know, a hater of all the gods!

Pisth. God knows no love was ever lost between you!

Πρ. Τίμων καθαρός. ἀλλ' ὥς ἂν ἀποτρέχω πάλιν,
φέρε τὸ σκιάδειον, ἵνα με καὶ ὁ Ζεὺς ἴδῃ
ἄνωθεν, ἀκολουθεῖν δοκῶ κανηφόρῳ.

Πι. καὶ τὸν δίφρον γε διφροφόρει τουνδὶ λαβών.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

(στροφή)

πρὸς δὲ τοῖς Σκιάποσιν λί-
μνη τις ἔστ', ἄλουτος οὐ
ψυχαγωγεῖ Σωκράτης·
ἔνθα καὶ Πείσανδρος ἦλθε

δεόμενος ψυχὴν ἰδεῖν, ἣ
ζῶντ' ἐκείνον προὔλιπε,
σφάγι' ἔχων κάμηλον ἀ-
μνόν τιν', ἧς λαιμοὺς τεμὼν

ὥσπερ οὐδυσσεὺς ἀπῆλθε,
κατ' ἀνῆλθ' αὐτῷ κάτωθεν
πρὸς τὸ λαῖτμα τῆς καμήλου
Χαιρεφῶν ἡ νυκτερίς.

Prom. A Timon pure, that's me!—Now, to run back!
Hand me the sunshade; then even if Zeus in the sky
Does spy me, he'll think I'm waiting on a lady.

Pisth. Very well; and take this chair for the lady, too.

CHORUS.

(*strophe*)

By a lake, where the infernal
Shadefoot generations dwell,
Socrates, the unwash'd fakir,
Conjures spirits out of Hell.

There the blatherskite Peisander
Came, with camel lamb, to search
For the chicken-hearted spirit
That had left him in the lurch.

While, Odysseus-like, he waited
By the blood his knife had drawn,
Up to sip the camel-carnage
Popp'd the black bat, Chaerephon.

Z.

Πο. τὸ μὲν πόλισμα τῆς Νεφελοκοκκυγίας
ὄρᾱν τοδὶ πάρεστιν, οἱ πρεσβεύομεν.—
οὗτος τί δρᾷς; ἐπ' ἀριστερ' οὕτως ἀμπέχει;
οὐ μεταβαλεῖς θοῖμάτιον ὧδ' ἐπιδέξια;
τί ᾧ κακόδαιμον; Λαισποδίας εἰ τὴν φύσιν;
ᾧ δημοκρατία ποῖ προβιβᾷς ἡμᾶς ποτε,
εἰ τουτονὶ γ' ἐχειροτόνησαν οἱ θεοί;
ἔξεις ἀτρέμας; οἴμωξε· πολὺ γὰρ δὴ σ' ἐγὼ
έόρακα πάντων βαρβαρώτατον θεῶν.
ἄγε δὴ τί δρῶμεν Ἡράκλεις;

Ηρ. ἀκήκοας
ἐμοῦ γ', ὅτι τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἄγχειν βούλομαι,
ὅστις ποτ' ἔσθ' ὁ τοὺς θεοὺς ἀποτειχίσας.

Πο. ἀλλ' ὦγάθ' ἡρήμεσθα περὶ διαλλαγῶν
πρέσβεις.

Ηρ. διπλασίως μᾶλλον ἄγχειν μοι δοκεῖ.

Πι. τὴν τυρόκνηστίν τις δότω· φέρε σίλφιον·
τυρὸν φερέτω τις· πυρπόλει τοὺς ἄνθρακας.

Πο. τὸν ἄνδρα χαίρειν οἱ θεοὶ κελεύομεν
τρέις ὄντες ἡμεῖς.

SCENE VI.

*Enter PISTHETAERUS and a Servant, POSEIDON, HERACLES,
TRIBALLUS.*

Pos. [*To HERACLES.*] Lo, here we have in view the capitol
Of Cloudecuckootown, whither our mission leads us.—
[*To TRIBALLUS.*] Here you, what's this? Do you wear your cloak one-
sided?
Can you not shift it — that way — to the right?
You wretch, are you a natural-born Laespodias?—
To what a pass, Democracy, wilt thou bring us,
If the gods could choose *this* dolt for their ambassador?—
Will you hold still? — plague take you! Well you do
Beat all the barbaric gods I ever saw!—
Now, Heracles, what are we to do?

Her. You have heard
My say: this man, whoever he be, whose wall
Shuts out the gods, I vote to wring his neck.

Pos. But, my dear sir, our mission in the matter
Contemplates peace.

Her. Then twist his neck twice over!

Pisth. [*To the Servant.*] The cheese-grater, where is it? Bring me
some curry!

Let me have cheese here! Make the coals burn lively!

Pos. Our compliments and credentials we present,
Three gods to the mortal man.

Πι. ἀλλ' ἐπικινῶ τὸ σίλφιον.

Ηρ. τὰ δὲ κρέα τοῦ ταῦτ' ἐστίν;

Πι. ὄρνιθές τινες

ἐπανιστάμενοι τοῖς δημοτικοῖσιν ὀρνέοις
ἔδοξαν ἀδικεῖν.

Ηρ. εἶτα δῆτα σίλφιον

ἐπικινῆς πρότερον αὐτοῖσιν;

Πι. ὦ χαῖρ' Ἡράκλεις.

τί ἔστι;

Πο. πρεσβεύοντες ἡμεῖς ἤκομεν

παρὰ τῶν θεῶν περὶ πολέμου καταλλαγῆς.

Πι. ἔλαιον οὐκ ἔνεστιν ἐν τῇ ληκύθῳ.

Ηρ. καὶ μὴν τά γ' ὀρνίθεια λιπάρ' εἶναι πρέπει.

Πο. ἡμεῖς τε γὰρ πολεμοῦντες οὐ κερδαίνομεν,

ὕμεῖς τ' ἂν ἡμῖν τοῖς θεοῖς ὄντες φίλοι

ὄμβριον ὕδωρ ἂν εἴχετ' ἐν τοῖς τέλμασιν,

ἀλκονιδας τ' ἂν ἤγεθ' ἡμέρας αἰεί.

τούτων περὶ πάντων αὐτοκράτορες ἤκομεν.

Πι. ἀλλ' οὔτε πρότερον πώποθ' ἡμεῖς ἤρξαμεν

πολέμου πρὸς ὑμᾶς, νῦν τ' ἐθέλομεν, εἰ δοκεῖ,

ἐάν τι δίκαιον ἀλλὰ νῦν ἐθέλητε δρᾶν,

σπονδὰς ποιεῖσθαι. τὰ δὲ δίκαι' ἐστὶν ταδί,

τὸ σκῆπτρον ἡμῖν τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν πάλιν

τὸν Δ' ἀποδοῦναι· καὶ διαλλαττώμεθα

ἐπὶ τοῖσδε, τοὺς πρέσβεις ἐπ' ἄριστον καλῶ.

Pisth. Stir in the curry.

Her. Whose flesh, pray, have you there?

Pisth. A lark or two,
Found guilty of conspiring to subvert
The bird majority.

Her. Then do you begin
With them by stirring in curry?

Pisth. [*Looking up.*] Ah, Heracles!
What's the good word?—

Pos. We are ambassadors
Sent by the gods to treat of bringing the war
To a conclusion.—

Pisth. [*To the Servant.*] There's no oil in the cruet!—

Her. Upon my word the bird-meat seems right fat!—

Pos. For we gain nothing by prolonging it;
And you, by coming to terms with us the gods,
Would have rain-water cisterns always full
And while away no end of halcyon days.
We are empowered to settle all these points.

Pisth. As we, before, were nowise the aggressors
In the war with you, so now, if it seem best,
We will make truce, provided you can consent
Even at the eleventh hour to do what's right:—
That Zeus restore the sceptre to the birds.
If on these terms we come to an understanding,
Then I invite the ambassadors to breakfast.

Ηρ. ἐμοὶ μὲν ἀπόχρη ταῦτα καὶ ψηφίζομαι—

Πο. τί ὧ κακόδαιμον; ἡλίθιος καὶ γάστρις εἶ.
ἀποστερεῖς τὸν πατέρα τῆς τυραννίδος;

Πι. ἄλῃθες; οὐ γὰρ μείζον ὑμεῖς οἱ θεοὶ
ἰσχύσετ', ἣν ὕρμιθες ἄρξωσιν κάτω;
νῦν μὲν γ' ὑπὸ ταῖς νεφέλαισιν ἐγκεκρυμμένοι
κύψαντες ἐπιорκοῦσιν ὑμᾶς οἱ βροτοί·
ἐὰν δὲ τοὺς ὄρνις ἔχητε συμμαχούς,
ὅταν ὁμνύῃ τις τὸν κόρακα καὶ τὸν Δία,
ὁ κόραξ παρελθὼν τοῦπιорκοῦντος λάθρα
προσπτόμενος ἐκκόψει τὸν ὀφθαλμὸν θενών.

Πο. νῆ τὸν Ποσειδῶ ταῦτά γέ τοι καλῶς λέγεις.

Ηρ. κάμοι δοκεῖ.

Πι. τί δαὶ σὺ φής;

Τρ. ναβαισατρεῦ.

Πι. ὀρᾶς; ἐπαινεῖ χούτος. ἕτερόν νυν ἔτι
ἀκούσαθ' ὅσον ὑμᾶς ἀγαθὸν ποιήσομεν.
ἐάν τις ἀνθρώπων ἱερεῖόν τῳ θεῶν
εὐξάμενος εἴτα διασοφίζεται λέγων,
'μενετοὶ θεοὶ,' καὶ μάποδιδῶ μισητήα,
ἀναπράξομεν καὶ ταῦτα.

Πο. φέρ' ἴδω τῷ τρόπῳ;

Πι. ὅταν διαριθμῶν ἀργυρίδιον τύχη
ἄνθρωπος οὗτος, ἥ καθῆται λούμενος,
καταπτόμενος ἱκτίνος ἀρπάσας λάθρα
προβάτοις δυοῖν τιμὴν ἀνοίσει τῷ θεῷ.

Her. I find the terms satisfactory, and I vote —

Pos. What, miscreant! You senseless belly-god,
Will you throw away the kingdom of your father?—

Pisth. Really! Will you gods not be stronger than ever
Up there, if the birds come into power below?
As it is now, hiding under the clouds, men stoop
And in your holy names forswear themselves.
But, if you hold the birds in your alliance,
When a man swears by Jove and by Jim Crow,
The crow, flying up to the perjurer unawares,
Will claw his eye out at a single clip!

Pos. Now, by Poseidon, there's some sense in that!

Her. So I say.

Pisth. [To TRIBALLUS.] And you?

Trib. Gobakkyolladree.

Pisth. He, too, approves, you see.—Now one thing more
Which, to your great advantage, we shall do.
Suppose some mortal makes vow of a victim
Unto some god, then says, prevaricating,
"The gods can wait," and fails, the greedy-gut,
To pay,— *we* will collect your dues.

Pos. How so?

Pisth. Sometime, when, as it happens, this gentleman
Is counting his money or seated in the bathtub,
A kite, flying in unnoticed, will grab up
The value of *two* victims for the god!

Ηρ. τὸ σκήπτρον ἀποδοῦναι πάλιν ψηφίζομαι
τούτοις ἐγώ.

Πο. καὶ τὸν Τριβαλλόν νυν ἐροῦ.

Ηρ. ὁ Τριβαλλός, οἰμώζειν δοκεῖ σοι;

Τρ. σαννάκα

βακταρικρούσα.

Ηρ. φησί μ' εὖ λέγειν πάνν.

Πο. εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σφῶν ταῦτα, κάμοι συνδοκεῖ.
οὔτος, δοκεῖ δρᾶν ταῦτα τοῦ σκήπτρου πέρι.

Πι. καὶ νῆ Δί' ἕτερόν γ' ἐστὶν οὗ μνήσθην ἐγώ.
τὴν μὲν γὰρ Ἦραν παραδίδωμι τῷ Δί,
τὴν δὲ Βασίλειαν τὴν κόρην γυναικ' ἐμοὶ
ἐκδοτέον ἐστίν.

Πο. οὐ διαλλαγῶν ἐρᾷς.
ἀπίωμεν οἴκαδ' αὖθις.

Πι. ὀλίγον μοι μέλει.
μάγειρε τὸ κατάχυσμα χρὴ ποιεῖν γλυκύ.

Ηρ. ὦ δαιμόνι' ἀνθρώπων Πόσειδον ποῖ φέρει;
ἡμεῖς περὶ γυναικὸς μιᾶς πολεμήσομεν;

Πο. τί δαὶ ποιῶμεν;

Ηρ. ὅ τι; διαλλαττώμεθα.

Πο. τί δ' ὧζύρ'; οὐκ οἶσθ' ἐξαπατῶμενος πάλαι;
βλάπτεις δέ τοι σὺ σαυτόν. ἦν γὰρ ἀποθάνῃ
ὁ Ζεὺς παραδοὺς τούτοισι τὴν τυραννίδα,
πένης ἔσει σύ. σοῦ γὰρ ἅπαντα γίγνεται
τὰ χρήμαθ', ὅσ' ἂν ὁ Ζεὺς ἀποθνήσκων καταλίπη.

Her. Once more I vote to give the sceptre back
To the birds.

Pos. Ask the Triballian now.

Her. Look here,
Triballus, would you like a licking?

Trib. Ligga
Stikkajakky.

Her. He says I speak to the point.

Pos. If you two are agreed, I acquiesce.—

[*To PISTHETAERUS.*] My man, we do concede the sovereignty.

Pisth. Ah, sure—there's another thing I had in mind.
Hera, the queen—I leave her in Zeus' keeping,
But the Princess Basily must be given to me
In marriage.

Pos. You don't desire a truce. Let us
Go home again.

Pisth. That concerns me little.—Hey, cook
Make sure and have a prime flavor to that sauce!

Her. Poseidon, my dear fellow, what does this mean?
Shall we have war about one woman?

Pos. What, then,
Are we to do?

Her. What do? Make peace!

Pos. Poor devil,
Don't you see you're getting cheated all this time?
You're ruining yourself. In case Zeus dies
After handing over the sceptre to the birds,
You will be a pauper! You are the heir, of course,
To all the property Zeus leaves at his death.

Πι. οἷμοι τάλας οἶόν σε περισοφίζεται.
δεῦρ' ὡς ἔμ' ἀποχώρησον, ἵνα τί σοι φράσω.
διαβάλλεται σ' θεῖος ὦ πόνηρε σύ.
τῶν γὰρ πατρώων οὐδ' ἀκαρῇ μέτεστί σοι
κατὰ τοὺς νόμους· νόθος γὰρ εἶ κοῦ γνήσιος.

Ηρ. ἐγὼ νόθος; τί λέγεις;

Πι. σὺ μέντοι νῆ Δία

ὦν γε ξένης γυναικός. ἢ πῶς ἄν ποτε
ἐπὶ κληρον εἶναι τὴν Ἀθηναίαν δοκεῖς,
οὐσαν θυγατέρ', ὄντων ἀδελφῶν γνησίων;

Ηρ. τί δ' ἦν ὁ πατὴρ ἐμοὶ διδῶ τὰ χρήματα
νοθεῖ' ἀποθνήσκων;

Πι. ὁ νόμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔῃ.
οὗτος ὁ Ποσειδῶν πρῶτος, ὃς ἐπαίρει σε νῦν,
ἀνθέξεταί σου τῶν πατρώων χρημάτων
φάσκων ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς εἶναι γνήσιος.
ἐρῶ δὲ δὴ καὶ τὸν Σόλωνός σοι νόμον·

‘ νόθῳ δὲ μὴ εἶναι ἀγχιστεῖαν παίδων ὄντων
γνησίων. ἐὰν δὲ παῖδες μὴ ᾧσι γνήσιοι, τοῖς
ἐγγυτάτῳ γένους μετεῖναι τῶν χρημάτων.’

Ηρ. ἐμοὶ δ' ἄρ' οὐδὲν τῶν πατρώων χρημάτων
μέτεστιν;

Πι. οὐ μέντοι μὰ Δία. λέξον δέ μοι,
ἥδη σ' ὁ πατὴρ εἰσήγαγ' ἐς τοὺς φράτερας;

Ηρ. οὐ δῆτ' ἐμέ γε. καὶ δῆτ' ἐθαύμαζον πάλαι.

Πι. τί δῆτ' ἄνω κέχηνας αἵκειαν βλέπων;

Pisth. [To HERACLES.] Merciful Heaven, how he is coming it over you!—

Step aside to me here, until I tell you something.
Your uncle is putting a trick on you, you lout!
Of your father's property not a blessed cent
Is yours by law; you're illegitimate.

Her. I illegitimate! What?

Pisth. Yes, by great Zeus!

You had a foreign mother. Athena is heiress,
As everybody knows; and how could that be,
If she, being daughter, had legitimate brothers?

Her. But what if my father bequeath to me his estate
As bastard-legacy?

Pisth. The law forbids him!
The very first counter-claim of all would come
From Poseidon here, who is hounding you on now,
Averting that he's the testator's lawful brother.
I will quote you the law of Solon on this point.

“Sec. 1903. Moreover it is herein provided that to a son illegitimate there shall belong no right of inheritance if there be sons legitimate; if there be no sons legitimate the nearest of kith and kin shall share the estate.”

Her. Then does there fall to me no share at all
Of the patrimony?

Pisth. None at all! Look here,
Did your father have you registered and christen'd?

Her. Hell, no! I always wondered what he meant by it!

Pisth. Then what are you glaring at, you bag-punching bully?

ἀλλ' ἦν μεθ' ἡμῶν ἧς, καταστήσας σ' ἐγὼ
τύραννον ὀρνίθων παρέξω σοι γάλα.

Ηρ. δίκαι' ἔμοιγε καὶ παλαι δοκεῖς λέγειν
περὶ τῆς κόρης, κᾶγωγε παραδίδωμί σοι.

Πι. τί δαὶ σὺ φῆς;

Πο. τᾶναντία ψηφίζομαι.

Πι. ἐν τῷ Τριβαλλῷ πᾶν τὸ πρᾶγμα. τί σὺ λέγεις;

Τρ. καλάνι κόραυνα καὶ μεγάλα βασιλιναῦ
ὄρνιτο παραδίδωμι.

Ηρ. παραδοῦναι λέγει.

Πο. μὰ τὸν Δί' οὐχ οὗτός γε παραδοῦναι λέγει,
εἰ μὴ βαβάζει γ' ὥσπερ αἱ χελιδόνες.

Πι. οὐκοῦν παραδοῦναι ταῖς χελιδόσιν λέγει.

Πο. σφὼ νῦν διαλλάττεσθε καὶ ξυμβαίνετε
ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ σφῶν δοκεῖ, σιγήσομαι.

Ηρ. ἡμῖν ἂ λέγεις σὺ πάντα συγχωρεῖν δοκεῖ.
ἀλλ' ἴθι μεθ' ἡμῶν αὐτὸς ἐς τὸν οὐρανόν,
ἵνα τὴν Βασίλειαν καὶ τὰ πάντ' ἐκεῖ λάβῃς.

Πι. ἐς καιρὸν ἄρα κατεκόπησαν οὔτοι
ἐς τοὺς γάμους.

Ηρ. βούλεσθε δῆτ' ἐγὼ τέως
ὀπτῶ τὰ κρέα ταυτὶ μένων; ὑμεῖς δ' ἴτε.

Πο. ὀπτᾶς τὰ κρέα; πολλήν γε τευθείαν λέγεις.
οὐκ εἶ μεθ' ἡμῶν;

Ηρ. εἶ γε μέντ᾽ ἀν διετέθην.

Πι. ἀλλὰ γαμικὴν χλανίδα δότω τις δεῦρό μοι.

But—side with us, I'll get you an appointment
As policeman, and give you pigeon's milk in plenty.

Her. [*Aloud.*] For my part, your demand again seems fair,
About the princess, and I'm ready to grant it.

Pisth. [*To POSEIDON.*] Well, what do you say?

Pos. I give my vote against it.

Pisth. All turns upon Triballus. What say you, now?

Trib. Boofadamsambiggabasalinnny
Andovabiddibus.

Pisth. He says, Hand her over.

Pos. Not he! he doesn't say, Hand over, unless
It's the language of the Twitterers that he's talking.

Pisth. He means, then, Hand her over to the twitterers.

Pos. [*To HERACLES and TRIBALLUS.*] You two may make your treaty
and your truce;

And I, since 'tis your pleasure, will keep silent.

Her. [*To PISTHETAEUS.*] To all your propositions we are agreed.
But go with us now, in person, up to Heaven,
To take your winnings and your bride Basily.

Pisth. 'T was a timely guillotining of these birds,
For the marriage feast.

Her. Suppose I stay behind
And see to the broiling, while you go ahead?

Pos. To the broiling? It's the bolting, glutton, you'd see to!
Come along with us.

Her. And a precious plight to come to!

Pisth. Ho, there! let some one bring me a wedding-garment!

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

(ἀντιστροφή)

ἔστι δ' ἐν Φαναῖσι πρὸς τῇ
Κλεψύδρᾳ πανοῦργον ἐγ-
γλωττογαστόρων γένος,
οἳ θερίζουσιν τε καὶ σπεί-
ρουσι καὶ τρυνῶσι ταῖς γλώτ-
ταισι συκάζουσί τε·
βάρβαροι δ' εἰσὶν γένος,
Γοργαῖι τε καὶ Φίλιπποι.
κἀπὸ τῶν ἐγγλωττογαστό-
ρων ἐκείνων τῶν Φιλίππων
πανταχοῦ τῆς Ἀττικῆς ἢ
γλώττα χωρὶς τέμνεται.

CHORUS.

(antistrophe)

In the Blackmail region, not far
From the Fount of Windy Lungs,
Flourishes a pettifogging
Beastly tribe of Bellytongues.

While their clapperjack is clucking
They are raking in the dough,
Philip-pups and Gorgi-asses,
Offspring of Barbarigo.

At all Attie sacrifices,
Where the bones are strewn about,
You can pick up belly-blabbers
Lying with their tongues cut out.

Η.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

Ἄγ. ὦ πάντ' ἀγαθὰ πράττοντες, ὦ μείζω λόγου,
ὦ τρισμακάριον πτηνὸν ὀρνίθων γένος,
δέχεσθε τὸν τύραννον ὀλβίοις δόμοις.
προσέρχεται γὰρ οἶος οὔτε παμφαῆς
ἀστὴρ ἰδεῖν ἔλαμψε χρυσαυγεῖ δόμῳ,
οὔθ' ἡλίου τηλαυγὲς ἀκτίνων σέλας
τοιούτου ἐξέλαμψεν, οἶον ἔρχεται
ἔχων γυναικὸς κάλλος οὐ φατὸν λέγειν,
πάλλων κεραυνόν, πτεροφόρον Διὸς βέλος·
ὅσμη δ' ἀωνόμαστος ἐς βάθος κύκλου
χωρεῖ, καλὸν θέαμα· θυμιαμάτων δ'
αὔραι διαψαίρουσι πλεκτάνην καπνοῦ.
ὁδὶ δὲ καὐτός ἐστιν. ἀλλὰ χρή θεᾶς
Μούσης ἀνοίγειν ἱερὸν εὐφημον στόμα.

SCENE VII.

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. O ye all-fortunate, more than tongue can tell!
O feather'd tribes, thrice-blessed, welcome now
Your lord and master to his happy home.
How doth he come, more radiant than the beam
Of some effulgent star in house of gold!
Not the ray'd brilliance of the far-flashing sun
Hath shone like him, who draws nigh with his bride
Of beauty ineffable, whilst in his hand he wields
Zeus' weapon, the wing-tufted thunderbolt.
Unspeaking fragrance into the welkin's depth
Rises, a wondrous sight; and incense-coils
Float idly on the weird smoke-flapping breezes.—
But lo, behold himself! 'Tis time to ope
The Muse's holy all-propitious mouth.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄναγε δῖεχε πάραγε πάρεχε.
περιπέτεσθε
τὸν μάκαρα μάκαρι σὺν τύχῃ.
ὦ φεῦ φεῦ τῆς ὥρας, τοῦ κάλλους.

ΚΟΡΤΦΑΙΟΣ.

ὦ μακαριστὸν σὺ γάμον τῇδε πόλει γήμας
μεγάλαι μεγάλαι κατέχουσι τύχαι
γένος ὀρνίθων διὰ τόνδε τὸν ἄνδρα.
ἀλλ' ὑμεναίοις
καὶ νυμφιδίοισι δέχεσθ' ὥδαῖς
αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν Βασίλειαν.

Enter PISTHETAERUS, BASILY, and train.

CHORUS.

Fall in, fall out; fly right-about;
Waft wide the airy portal:
With whirring wings and feathery flings
Surround the happy mortal!

O! O! O! what a beauteous bride
Is that disporting by his side!

LEADER OF CHORUS.

All-hail, O thou who blest
This city of a nest
With a divine alliance!—
Immense, immense the luck
The feather'd tribes have struck,
Soaring by *his* science!

Greet now with hymeneal shout,
Chorals of the wedding-rout,
Him and his Basily.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

(στροφή)

Ἦρα ποτ' Ὀλυμπία
τῶν ἡλιβάτων θρόνων
ἄρχοντα θεοῖς μέγαν
Μοῖραι ξυνεκοίμισαν
ἐν τοιῷδ' ὕμεναίφ.
Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι' ὦ.

(ἀντιστροφή)

ὁ δ' ἀμφιθαλὴς Ἴρως
χρυσόπτερος ἡνίας
ἤϋθνε παλιντόνους,
Ζηνὸς πάροχος γάμων
τῆς τ' εὐδαίμονος Ἦρας.
Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι' ὦ.

CHORUS.

(strophe)

Once upon a time the Fates
Queenly Hera thus did bring
To the most august of mates,
The high-thron'd Olympian king;
Sounding *their* praise even so,
Hymen Hymenaeus O!

(antistrophe)

Gold-wing'd Eros was best man,
Tight the cherub drew the reins,
Guiding an immortal span
Over the celestial plains;
Happy Hera long ago!
Hymen Hymenaeus O!

ΠΙΣΘΕΤΑΙΡΟΣ.

ἐχάρην ὕμνοις, ἐχάρην ψδαῖς·
ἄγαμαι δὲ λόγων. ἄγε νῦν αὐτοῦ
καὶ τὰς χθονίας κλήσατε βροντὰς
τάς τε πυρώδεις Διὸς ἀσπεροπὰς
δεινόν τ' ἀργῆτα κεραυνόν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ μέγα χρύσειον ἀστεροπῆς φάος,
ὦ Διὸς ἀμβροτον ἔγχος πυρφόρον.

ὦ χθόνιαι βαρναχέες
ὀμβροφόροι θ' ἅμα βρονταί,
αἷς ὅδε νῦν χθόνα σείει,
δῖα δὲ τὰ πάντα κρατήσας
καὶ πάρεδρον Βασίλειαν ἔχει Διός.
Ὕμῃν ὦ Ὑμέναι' ὦ.

PISTHETAERUS.

With your songs, with your hymns,
I'm delighted, I'm sure:
Many thanks for your words!—
Sing, now, straight on and glorify
Our red lightnings of the sky;
Our dread thunder-peals, that break
Till the black Earth seems to quake.

CHORUS.

How gorgeous the gleam of the gold-twisted flashes!
How awful the flame of the fierce thunderbolt,
With its cracks and its crashes,
By Zeus brandish'd of old!
O, ye rumbling thunders grand,
Cloudbursts of the mountain-brow,
This great conqueror puts his hand
To your fulminations now;
Basily ordains it so,
Hymen Hymenaeus O!

ΠΙΣΘΕΤΑΙΡΟΣ.

ἔπεσθε νῦν γάμοισιν, ὦ
φῦλα πάντα συννόμων
πτεροφόρ', ἐπὶ δάπεδον Διὸς
καὶ λέχος γαμήλιον.

ὄρεξον ὦ μάκαιρα σὴν
χεῖρα καὶ πτερῶν ἐμῶν
λαβοῦσα συγχόρευσον· αἶ-
ρων δὲ κουφίῳ σ' ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλαλαλαὶ ἢ παιών,
τῆνελλα καλλίνικος, ὦ
δαιμόνων ὑπέρτατε.

PISTHETAERUS.

Follow all, birds of a feather,
Flock and follow, as you're led,
To the realm of sunny weather,
Where the nuptial couch is spread!—

Give me your hand, Birdie: how I
Long to dance with you to-day!
Take hold of my wings, and now I
Whisk you clear up and away!

CHORUS.

Huzza, huzza! Io triumphe!
Huzza, huzza! Thrum, thrum!
Thrum on a thousand strings!
O Conqueror of Kings!



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PAT. JAN. 21, 1908

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